

Student Transportation:

Question/Suggestion: Why did the school system change school starting and ending times and what else is it doing to control student transportation costs.

Response: To make more effective and economical use of school buses, the Transportation Department reviewed its operations and determined that by adjusting school starting and ending times it could realize significant savings by reducing the number of school buses needed to transport students to and from school. This and other transportation cost saving initiatives are discussed in the attached document.

Through the implementation of revised school starting and ending times beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the Transportation Services Department was able to reduce regular education busing requirements by forty (40) buses. This reduction will generate approximately \$1.2 million in annual savings for SY 2012-2013 and significant cost avoidance for future school years. In addition, the school athletic trip contract was revised to allow for more competition among qualified school bus contractors, thereby enabling schools to obtain the lowest possible pricing for sports trips. For the 2011-2012 school year, a savings of \$26,000 was realized by this procurement change.

Additional transportation efficiencies and future savings are expected in the areas of special education transportation and computerized routing. As more special education students are identified to receive required services within their neighborhood schools and specialized programs are developed within the county, average student ride time and the number of students riding special education buses can be significantly reduced. The implementation of a new computerized routing system will lead to the creation of more efficient bus routes and the ability to improve the monitoring of contract costs.